Food processing industries in Rajasthan

†626. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the kinds of industries that can be established in Rajasthan for food processing;

(b) whether some survey or study has been conducted in this regard, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any scheme under consideration to ensure that the food processing takes place at farmer's family level;

(d) if not, whether Government with the co-operation of State Government would formulate such scheme for each and every district of Rajasthan; and

(e) whether Government would make arrangement for some kind of technical and financial co-operation in the project for processing of garlic, coriander, cumin seed, fenu greek, orange, kinnu, tomato and lemon produced in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (e) Rajasthan is the largest producer of mustard and third largest producer of soyabean in the country and it has substantial stake in the production of groundnut and sesame. It accounts for 50% of production of guar and Isabgol in the country. There is scope for setting up of processing industries for the above products. In addition, the State has possibilities for setting up of industries for value addition in spices, barley, gram, pulses, castor seeds, etc. Substantial capacity for oil extracting and refining also exist in the State.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries has not conducted any survey in Rajasthan. However, based on available information the following is the status of food processing industries in the State:—

1. There are a total of 18,228 agro based products and food processing industries comprising 18,127 in the SSI Sector and 101 in the Large and Medium Sector exist in Rajasthan, Further, 363 proposals have been made through Industrial Enterpreneurs Memoranda (IEMs) and Letters of Intent (LOIs/Direct Industrial Licenses (DILs), issued for setting up of units in the agro food processing sector.

2. Four Food Parks have been approved in Rajasthan with a total MFPI assistance of Rs. 12.51 crores in Kota, Jodhpur, Sriganganagar and Alwar to be implemented by RIICO Limited, Rajasthan. Also, two Agri Export Zones covering the districts of Nagaur, Pali, Barmer, Jalor, Jodhpur, Kota, Bundi, Baren, Chittore and Jhalawar have been developed by the State Government with the help of Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) to boost export of spices such as cumin seed (jeera) and coriandar (dhania).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Further, Ministry of Food Processing Industries has requested the State Government to prepare an Action Plan for promotion of food processing industries in respect of items on which the State has comparative advantage on account of production and other facilities.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries under its Plan Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Modernization/Establishment of Food Processing Industries, extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of Plant & Machinery and Technical Civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas to implementing agencies/entrepreneurs for setting up/modernization/technology upgradation of food processing industries which includes processing of horticultural produces like spices and fruits and vegetables.

Cold storage facilities

627. SHRI T. T. V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate cold storage facilities have been created in every district of the country;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether private operators running cold storage facilities, are charging huge fees; and

(d) if so, the action taken to regulate such facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) As per data maintained by Ministry of Agriculture, total number of cold storage in the country is 5101 with capacity of 216.94 lakh MT (as on 31.12.2006). A Statement indicating Sector-wise, State-wise details of cold storage is given (*See* below). Out of 5101 cold storages, 4609 representing 90.29% of that total are owned by the private sector.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) had been providing financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid upto 25% of the cost of plant & machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 33.33% in difficult areas with a common ceiling of Rs. 75 lakhs under the Cold Chain component of 10th Plan Scheme. The assistance under the scheme was limited to cold storages for non-horticulture produces, special type of cold storage with controlled/modified atmosphere technology, cold storages as integral part of processing units or as a common facilitiy in food parks. The Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI) under Ministry of Agriculture acts as a nodal agency to promote cold storages in the country by co-ordinating Research & Development in cold storage.